

### Amendments to the Claims

A complete list of claims follows, with indicated amendments:

1. (Original) A wire rope and socket combination; comprising  
a wire rope socket;  
a rope formed of strands of twisted wires extending into the wire rope socket;  
one or more but not all of the strands of the twisted wires being bent over 180 degrees  
within the wire rope socket to provide a selected breaking strength of the wire rope socket; and  
babbit securing the rope in the wire rope socket.
2. (Original) The wire rope and socket combination of claim 1 in which the wire rope  
socket has a tapered bore, and the bent strands are bent in the direction of narrowing of the  
tapered bore.
3. (Withdrawn) A method of constructing a wire rope socket, the method comprising the  
steps of:  
bending one or more but not all of the strands of a rope formed of strands of twisted wires  
over 180 degrees to form bent strands;  
inserting the rope and bent strands into a wire rope socket; and  
pouring molten babbit into the wire rope socket to secure the rope in the wire rope socket.
4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 3 in which the wire rope socket has a tapered bore,  
and the bent strands are bent in the direction of narrowing of the tapered bore.

5. (Withdrawn) A method of constructing wire rope sockets of variable breaking strength, the method comprising the steps of:

repeating the method steps of claim 3 to build several wire rope sockets having different numbers of bent strands;

testing the breaking strength of the several wire rope sockets to obtain a relationship between number of bent strands and breaking strength of the wire rope socket; and

selecting the number of bent strands in a wire rope socket according to a desired breaking strength of the wire rope socket.